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Security Council

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 4875th meeting of the Security Council, held on 3 December 2003, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Côte d'Ivoire", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council is gravely concerned by attempts on the part of armed elements, observed on November 29 and 30 by ECOWAS and French forces, to cross the cease-fire line, and by the serious consequences that could arise as a result,

"The Security Council reiterates its full support for the ECOWAS and French forces and lauds their action to prevent those attempts, in accordance with resolutions 1464 and 1498,

"The Security Council strongly underscores to all the Ivorian parties their fundamental responsibility to respect the cease-fire in accordance with the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement,

"The Security Council calls on all the parties to refrain from any act that might compromise the respect of the cease-fire and the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement, as well as any incitement to such acts,

"The Security Council reiterates the urgent need for all the parties to take all possible measures to accelerate the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. In this context, it once again underscores the importance of having the Forces nouvelles return and participate fully in the government of national reconciliation, and that the full government meets immediately and takes steps in order to implement all the provisions of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. It also reaffirms the urgent need to conduct operations to canton the forces on the ground, in order to begin disarmament and demobilization, accompanied by measures to facilitate their reintegration into the regular army or into civilian life,

"The Security Council reiterates in this regard its intention to consider the Secretary General's recommendations on the means of facilitating peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire,

"The Council welcomes the commitments undertaken by President Laurent Gbagbo in his speech on November 27, in which he reaffirmed his

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intention to implement without delay the provisions of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement, and expects the fulfilment of those commitments,

"The Security Council calls on all parties in Cote d'Ivoire and countries of the region to guarantee the safety and full access of humanitarian agencies personnel working in the field during the consolidation of the peace process."